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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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Dear Mayor Riley:

Thank you for your message to Secretary of State Shultz regarding the fate of Raoul Wallenberg.

The President, the Department of State, and Congress share a strong concern about the fate of Mr. Wallenberg. The U.S. Government takes every opportunity to make this concern known to the Soviet authorities.

Reflecting our interest in this case, President Reagan signed into law in October 1981 a bill conferring honorary U.S. citizenship upon Raoul Wallenberg. Honoring Mr. Wallenberg in this fashion was an important symbolic act. Then, as now, it made the Soviets and the world aware of our great admiration for his courage and dedication to humanity. In addition, it stressed our abhorrence for his unjust and illegal punishment by the Soviet government.

To emphasize further our dedication to resolve the mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate, we raised his case with the Soviets through diplomatic channels after he was made an honorary citizen. To date, the Soviets have not responded. However, our efforts to resolve the tragic mystery of Mr. Wallenberg's fate will continue until the Soviets provide a full and satisfactory clarification of their actions in his case.

We have pressed our efforts both in bilateral meetings and international forums, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Review Meeting in Madrid and the U.N. Human Rights Commission. In 1982, the U.S. Representative to the U.N. Human Rights Commission urged the Soviet Union to make "a humanitarian gesture which would contribute to universal good-feeling, namely a renewed search and full report, which may lay questions to rest; or else in the best of all possible outcomes, result in the discovery of the whereabouts of a man who stands among the heroes of our time." At a February 1983 session of the Commission, the U.S. Alternative Representative again raised the issue of Raoul Wallenberg, whom he termed "one of the genuine heroes of World War II, and one of the war's most noble spirits." He suggested the U.N. Human Rights Commission's Working Group on Disappearances be authorized to "make a renewed search and a full report" on the case.

Joseph P. Riley,
Mayor,
Charleston, South Carolina.

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We continue to work closely with the Swedish Government to investigate reports alleging that Mr. Wallenberg might still be alive. Thus far, we have been unable to substantiate this information. Nevertheless, we will maintain a cooperative effort with the Swedish Government and other interested parties to seek information that will clarify the fate of this brave man.

On January 17, 1985, President Reagan issued a statement marking the fortieth anniversary of Raoul Wallenberg's disappearance, and commemorating "his heroic deeds in saving thousands of Hungarian Jews." In his statement President Reagan said, "We will continue to insist that the Soviet Union has a moral obligation to answer, once and for all, the questions ws have about his fate."

If we can be of assistance to you in this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Jayne Plank
Director of Intergovernmental Affairs
Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs

Hope to see you at NLC!

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